



2002 SEP 12 PM 2:18

Date: 9/12/02

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## Office of Public Affairs

To: Name: Kathryn Dyer

FOIA

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From: Public Communications Branch

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Number of Pages: 8 (w/cover sheet)

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To: Kathryn I. Dyer From:   
Fax: 703-482-1739 Date: 9-12-02  
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Freedom of Information Act Appeal



## Judicial Watch

*Because no one is above the law!*

September 12, 2002

Kathryn I. Dyer  
Information and Privacy Coordinator  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20505

**Re: Clarification of FOIA Request No. F-2002-00847**

Dear Sir/Madam:

Our office mail has been slowed do to the anthrax crisis and subsequent precautions and safeguards regarding mail handling.

On May 16, 2002 Judicial Watch filed a FOIA request with the Cental Intelligence Agency requesting prior knowledge of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks by federal officials.

In a response letter postmarked June 6, 2002, Information and Privacy Coordinator, Kathryn I. Dyer, stated, "...in denying item 8, we are specifically referring to the portions of that item pertaining to Zacarias Moussaoui, Osama Bin Laden and Al-Qaeda. With regard to the portion of item 8 which pertains to 'plans by ...any terrorist group to hijack airplanes,' it will be necessary for you to define a time-frame and, preferably, specific terrorist groups and/or targets before we can consider this portion for a search."

This letter is a response to the request of Ms. Dyer.

In order to narrow the scope of the documentation, the time frame requested is January 1, 1995 through September 11, 2001. The terrorist groups we are referring to is Al-Qaeda, Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and Hezbollah. The terrorist targets are US interests and/or facilities overseas, landmarks, government facilities or transportation hubs in the continental United States.

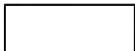
Please proceed to process our request. We will address any relevant appeal upon your response as indicated in your letter of June 5, 2002.

As a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization, Judicial Watch does not have a commercial

interest in the information, 501 (c)(3). Judicial Watch is continually credited by the media and others of disseminating information obtained under FOIA that has made news (most notably in the area of national security and privacy rights), as well as informed the public as to the operations and actions of their government (see Exhibit 1, attached).

Sincerely,

JUDICIAL WATCH INC.



**EXHIBIT ONE**

**Judicial  
Watch**

IN THE MEDIA

*Scripts Howard News  
Service*

August 14, 1997

## Commerce Department admits it withheld information illegally

*By Lance Gay*

In a major concession, the Justice Department admitted yesterday that the Commerce Department withheld information about the political activities of Clinton administration appointees, including Democratic fund-raiser John Huang.

In a motion filed with the U.S. District Judge Royce C. Lamberth, Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce Hegyi said the government no longer wants to contest a costly 3-year-old Freedom of Information suit brought by the private legal group Judicial Watch. The plea asks the judge to find against the government and in favor of the watchdog organization.

"The Department of Commerce moves hereby for the Court to enter judgment against it in this case," Mr. Hegyi said.

But Larry Klayman, director of Judicial Watch, said he does not want to accept any government concession.

He said he already has exposed how the administration defied repeated court orders to hand over documents, and that he believes he can find more if the case continues.

"Our discovery has shown the Clinton administration has obstructed this suit by shredding, hiding and withholding documents," he said. He said a Justice Department offer, included in the motion, to pay Judicial Watch's legal fees was an attempt "to bribe Judicial Watch to no longer seek the truth." Mr. Klayman said the group's legal fees amount to "several millions of dollars." Mr. Klayman was the first to discover Mr. Huang's involvement in political activities during the period he worked in Commerce's trade office in 1994 and 1995, and disclosed other political activities as well. Mr. Huang has since become a major figure in the campaign financing scandal.

Read legal documents related to Judicial Watch litigation on this subject by [clicking here](#).



**Judicial  
Watch**

*The Washington Times*  
January 19, 2000

# The Washington Times

Wednesday, January 19, 2000, Page A7

## PANAMA CANAL REPORT OBTAINED BY JUDICIAL WATCH DRAWS FIRE FROM SENATOR WARNER

### Senator irked by secrecy on canal

Warner says panel  
never got report

By Bill Gertz  
The Washington Times

The chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee is asking the Pentagon to explain why information contained in an intelligence assessment about Chinese activities in Panama was not provided to his panel.

"I am concerned that this Pentagon report was not mentioned during our hearing or subsequently shared with the committee," Sen. John W. Warner said in a letter sent Friday to Defense Secretary William S. Cohen.

Mr. Warner, Virginia Republican chairman, said he would like to know why the report by the U.S. Southern Command's Joint Intelligence Center reportedly contradicts claims by the Clinton administration that the presence of a Chinese company near the canal is not a threat to U.S. security interests.

The senator stated that he sent the letter after the intelligence report was mentioned in *The Washington Times* on Jan. 12.

Mr. Warner also said he has ordered the committee's staff to obtain the complete, classified version of the report from the Pentagon.

"I ask that you review this report and the testimony given by administration officials at the Oct. 22, 1999, Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on Panama Canal security and give me your thoughts about the allegations contained in *The Washington Times* article," he stated.

The Oct. 26 "Intelligence Assessment" of China's interests and activities in Panama was censored and was classified at the "secret" level. It stated that any "potential threat" to the canal from China was "indirect."

During the Senate Armed Services Committee hearing, held four days before the intelligence report was produced, several administration officials testified that Chinese control of the two Panamanian ports was not a problem and said they were unaware that

Beijing uses Chinese commercial entities for military purposes.

Marine Corps Gen. Charles E. Wilhelm, commander in chief of the U.S. Southern Command, testified during the hearing he believes China does use businesses for military purposes. He said there was "no evidence" the canal was targeted by terrorists or foreign governments although it is a potential target.

The hearing was called after questions about the issue were raised by Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott.

Mr. Lott stated in a letter to Mr. Cohen last summer that he was worried about Chinese interests in Panama. The Mississippi Republican said the Clinton administration was "allowing a scenario to develop where U.S. national security interests could not be protected without confronting the Chinese communists in the Americas."

Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon said in August, in response to Mr. Lott's concerns, that "we do not see the Chinese-owned port facilities as a military or a national security threat."

Mr. Bacon said yesterday Mr. Cohen had not seen the letter from Mr. Warner. "I think we'll wait to see it" before commenting, he said.

A subsidiary corporation, Hic Ltd., has purchased two port facilities of the canal, with Panamanian government Dec. 31.

The Panama Canal tugboat, and services to ships Balboa, on the Pacific, on the Atlantic

The report contains the Chinese officials or employees sabotage or destroy the country in their interests and we expect an invasion of the U.S. and the world."

But the intel stated that Hic Hong Kong eye "has extensive contact and has no reasons to maintain relationship with CI

The Chinese economic forces signed to countenance in the region